

## Message Text

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15

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

RSR-01 /085 W

----- 105025

R 181725 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9491

INFO USCINCSO FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 3308

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CU, VE

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE CREATION OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION IN  
CUBA

REF: CARACAS 3287

1. IN DISCUSSION APRIL 17 LAUREANO BATISTA, CUBAN CHRISTIAN  
DEMOCRATIC EXILE SOURCE, INFORMED EMBOFF THAT HE WAS CALLED  
APRIL 12 BY EDUARDO FERNANDEZ, DEPUTY SECRETARY- GENERAL OF COPEI,  
ABOUT PRESS CLAIMS THAT COPEI WAS BEHIND MOVE TO ESTABLISH CUBAN  
CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY. ( BATISTA, A GOOD PERSONAL FRIEND OF  
FERNANDEZ, HAD CALLED HIM DIRECTLY ON DAY HE FIRST HEARD OF REPORT  
FROM MIAMI TO REQUEST DENIAL.) FERNANDEZ SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN  
AUTHORIZED BY COPEI LEADERSHIP WHICH DISCUSSED MATTER AT REGULAR  
TUESDAY MEETING ( APRIL 10) TO TELL BATISTA FOLLOWING: COPEI HAD  
NOTHING TO DO WITH ANY PLAN TO ESTABLISH CUBAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC  
PARTY; IF THERE IS SUCH A MOVEMENT UNDERWAY COPEI WILL NOT ASSOCIATE  
ITSELF WITH IT IN ANY WAY; LASTLY THAT IN VIEW OF NATURE OF CUBAN  
GOVERNMENT SUCH IDEA WOULD BE ABSURD AND OF NO USE. ACCORDING TO  
BATISTA, BOTH FERNANDEZ AND LUIS HERRERA CAMPINS IN SEPARATE TALKS  
EXPRESSED TO HIM THEIR PERSONAL REVULSION AT IDEA.

2. BATISTA ALSO REPORTED THAT HE WAS TOLD BY BERNARDO LEVEL OSUNA,  
COPEI INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY, THAT HE, LEVEL, WAS DEEPLY DISTURBED  
BY REPORTS OF COPEI INVOLVEMENT AND IS CURIOUS TO KNOW WHERE EVIJU  
REPORTS MAY HAVE BEEN GENERATED. LEVEL ALSO TOLD BATISTA IN  
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CONFIDENCE THAT HE HAD TWO UNEXPLICABLE APPROACHES FROM CUBA. FIRST WHEN HE WAS IN PARIS LAST FALL WITH COPEI CANDIDATE LORENZO FERNANDEZ HE MET CUBAN AMBASSADOR AND AMBASSADOR INVITED HIM TO VISIT CUBA. LEVEL, WHO IS ONE OF COPEI'S MORE CONSERVATIVE MEMBERS, TURNED DOWN OFFER BUT WAS PUZZLED WHY HE, OF ALL PEOPLE, SHOULD HAVE BEEN APPROACHED. THEN RECENTLY HE WAS INFORMED BY HIGH COPEI OFFICIAL THAT " CUBAN VISA HAS ARRIVED" FOR HIM. LEVEL WAS AGAIN PUZZLED SINCE HE HAD NEITHER REQUESTED NOR SHOWN ANY INTEREST IN SUCH MATTERS. MCCLINTOCK

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:**  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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